

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 A-01 AID-05 CCO-00 DHA-02 OC-06 OMB-01 OPR-02
SCA-01 MCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ORM-02 SSM-03
IO-13 ACDA-07 /111 W

-----161641Z 065706 /46

O P 161552Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3083

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 221

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON SIX

COM THREE FOUR MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0709

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION FEB 15-6

REF: BEIRUT 0659 (DTG 141642Z FEB 77)

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1. SUMMARY. ALL PAPERS PROMINENTLY REPORTED AMB PARKER'S PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS ON FEB 15. THE PLO SEEMS ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANY NEW CLASHES AROUND THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN WEST BEIRUT. LSF UNITS HAVE REPORTEDLY REACHED NABATIYAH. THE QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN ON FEB 16. THE KFOUR FRONT'S MIL ARM HAS STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE NEW DECREE-LAW AIMED AT INDUCING SENIOR MIL OFFICERS

TO RETIRE. FORMER PRES SULEIMAN FRANGIE HAS DERIDED THE VISIT OF SECY OF STATE VANCE TO LEB. SOVIET MIDDLE EAST EXPERT MIKHAIL STYENKO IS NOW DUE TO ARRIVE IN BEIRUT ON FEB 18. END SUMMARY.

2. US AMB PRESENTS CREDENTIALS. LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, TV AND RADIO ALL REPORTED PROMINENTLY THAT AMB PARKER HAD PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT SARKIS ON FEB 15. MOST PAPERS ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE AMB HAD CONVEYED TO FONMIN BOUTROS "GUARANTEES REGARDING THE SOUTH" THE DAY BEFORE.

3. UNEASY CEASE-FIRE AROUND SABRA.

A. AN UNEASY CEASE-FIRE CONTINUES AROUND SABRA AND CHATILA REFUGEE CAMPS IN WEST BEIRUT, WHERE THERE WAS HEAVY FIGHTING ON FEB 10 AND 11.

HOWEVER, ASF UNITS IN THE AREA HAVE EASED THEIR ALERT STATUS SOMEWHAT,

ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE OBSERVER. IN ADDITION, THE PLO SEEMS MOST ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANY NEW CLASHES, AND THE PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY Wafa ANNOUNCED ON FEB 14 THAT PLO LEADERS HAD: (1) HANDED OVER TO THE ASF "THOSE WHO HAD PROVOKED THE RECENT INCIDENTS." (2) MET WITH THE ASF, THE QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE, PRES SARKIS, SYRIAN LEADERS, AND EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS "SO AS TO PREVENT ANY POSSIBLE EXPLOSION IN THE LEBANESE THEATER."

B. ACCORDING TO LEB MIL INTEL SOURCES, ASF OFFICERS AND PLO OFFICIALS MET ON FEB 14 AND AGREED TO NEGOTIATE AN END TO THE CRISIS. MEANWHILE, THE ASF COMMAND ANNOUNCED IT WOULD DEAL FIRMLY WITH ANY FUTURE "DISTURBANCES." THE COMMAND BLAMED THE "REJECTIONISTS" FOR THE RECENT
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FIGHTING, AND SAID A SYRIAN OFFICER HAD DIED OF WOUNDS RECD ON FEB 11.

4. ISF UNITS IN NABATIYAH. ACCORDING TO LEB MIL SOURCES, ABOUT 35 MEMBERS OF THE LEB INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES (ISF) REACHED NABATIYAH ON FEB 13, BUT LOCAL PALESTINIANS PREVENTED THEM FROM TAKING UP POSITIONS OUTSIDE POLICE STATIONS. ACCORDING TO PHALANGIST NEWSPAPER ALAMAL, THE FIRST ELEMENTS OF THE ISF REACHED NABATIYAH ON FEB 14.

5. QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE LIVES. THE QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE LIVES. AFTER ANNOUNCING IT HAD HELD ITS LAST SESSION ON FEB 12, THE COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO HOLD AN EMERGENCY MEETING ON FEB 16 TO DISCUSS SECURITY MEASURES FOR THE VISITS OF SECY OF STATE VANCE AND FONMIN GUIRINGAUD, ACCORDING TO RIGHTIST AL ANWAR. THE QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE WILL ALSO ASK THE ASF TO CARRY OUT RAIDS TO COLLECT HEAVY WEAPONS AFTER THIS "DIPLOMATIC WEEK" ENDS, THE PAPER REPORTED.

6. ISF AND MILITARY RETIREMENT. ACCORDING TO A GOVT COMMUNIQUE, THE CABINET ON FEB 14 APPROVED A DECREE-LAW PROVIDING FOR RETIREMENT OF

MEMBERS OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES "IN A WAY SIMILAR TO WHAT HAS BEEN DECIDED FOR SOLDIERS OF THE ARMY." (THE CABINET ON FEB 10 HAD APPROVED A DECREE-LAW AIMED AT INDUCING SENIOR MIL OFFICERS TO RETIRE.) THE KFOUR FRONT'S MIL ARM, THE UNITED COMMAND, EVIDENTLY BELIEVES THE FEB 10 LAW THREATENS THE TENURE OF CHRISTIAN OFFICERS. THE COMMAND ANNOUNCED ON FEB 14 THAT THE LAW DID NOT APPLY TO PEOPLE WHO "FOUGHT FOR THE DEFENSE OF LEB AND LEGALITY."

7. FRANGIE CRITICIZES VANCE VISIT. FORMER PRES SULEIMAN FRANGIE TOLD THE PRESS ON FEB 15 THAT THE KFOUR FRONT WOULD PRESENT MEMO TO SECY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE AND FONMIN LOUIS DE GUIRINGAUD "THROUGH THE INTERMEDIARY OF THEIR EMBASSIES." FRANGIE ALSO ALLEGED THAT THE VISITS OF THE TWO DIPLOMATS WERE "ONLY A COVER FOR THEIR COUNTRIES NEGLECT OF LEBANON."

8. DIPLOMATIC CALLS. ON FEB 14, CHINESE AMB HSU MING CALLED ON CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIMIN SELIM AL-HOSS, AND SOV AMB ALEXANDRE SOLDATOV CALLED ON THE DIR GEN OF THE FON MIN, NAJIB DAHDAH. SOLDATOV TOLD THE PRESS AFTERWARDS THAT SOVIET MIDDLE EAST EXPERT MIKHAIL STYENKO WOULD VISIT BEIRUT ON FEB 18 (RATHER THAN FEB 20 AS ANNOUNCED PREVIOUSLY). PARKER

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